

Autumn Internationals: George Ford Reclaims the No. 10 Jersey

Despite accumulating 102 caps, it appears that George Ford has spent his entire 11-year career struggling to become England's principal fly-half. Yet he will sport the No. 10 jersey again against Australia on Saturday in the Autumn Internationals after wowing coach Steve Borthwick both on and off the field.

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Ford made his debut in 2014, and although he has enjoyed extended spells as a starter, he was frequently ousted by Owen Farrell and then a succession of others. As recently as 2023, Ford was named man of the match in England's World Cup opening triumph over Argentina but was again excluded later in the tournament.

Marcus Smith was the golden talent for a while, rapidly eclipsed by Fin Smith. However, with both players engaged with the British and Irish Lions this year, Ford assumed the reins for two Tests in Argentina and another in the United States as part of England's early Autumn Internationals preparations.

He played magnificently in all three fixtures and carried that form into Sale once the Premiership resumed, while the Smiths were obliged to rest following their post-Lions duties. His leadership and consistency have made him an invaluable figure for both club and country heading into the Autumn Internationals campaign.

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Autumn Internationals 2025: Borthwick Rewards Ford's Leadership and Loyalty

Despite the prevalence of Northampton players across the back line, Borthwick opted not to start another Saint Fin Smith instead placing him on the bench and commencing with Ford, who is still only 32. I believe George started the season playing really well for Sale, did really well over the summer in Argentina from his performance point of view, and also from his leadership point of view.



Borthwick told reporters at the team's Pennyhill Park training base on Tuesday during England's Autumn Internationals briefing. Ford has always been a team-first participant, something Borthwick holds in high esteem, and the coach said he emphasized to others Ford's demeanour during the spells when he was being overlooked.

When I revealed the team, I addressed the players about George Ford, about when there was a series of games where I didn't pick him in the 23, and every day I thought he was probably the leading trainer in the squad, and every day he was there assisting the team prepare, Borthwick said. That's the example, that's the criterion.

Borthwick has continued to mix his back line as he aims to make the best use of a plethora of talent he has at present, and, with an eye on the next World Cup, he

prioritizes versatility throughout this Autumn Internationals 2025 series. Accordingly, Tommy Freeman will commence at outside center following three uniform appearances on the wing for the British and Irish Lions.

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England Vs Fiji Tickets: Borthwick Embraces Versatility in England's Back Line

Albeit in a midfield combination with Fraser Dingwall that operated really well in England's Six Nations rout of Wales earlier this year. I see Tommy's capability to play 13, wing, and potentially 15 being a huge asset for us, Borthwick said. When you look at the World Cup and the Autumn Internationals, having players who can play in various positions, particularly in the outside backs, that's very, very significant.

Borthwick has often mentioned the possibility of Saturday's starting Number Eight Ben Earl playing in the centers, and he has transitioned there during games before and provided a few more intriguing alternatives on Tuesday as England continue their Autumn Internationals adjustments.



Robes (wing Tom Roebuck) in the summer covered us at fullback, and Cadan Murley was covering us at 13, he said. I think there will be a time when I'll evaluate starting

Ben Earl at the center, especially with all the excellent back-row forwards we've got, and I'd have no reluctance in having Fin Smith in the centers.

Ford's resurgence and Borthwick's tactical reshuffling will be under scrutiny as England aim to build momentum through the Autumn Internationals, with fans eagerly seeking England vs Fiji tickets as anticipation builds for the clash.

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